the United States to U.S. diplomatic personnel and facilities in India. Since there is no evidence of Iraqi diplomats engaging in activities incompatible with their diplomatic status, Government took no action on the U.S. request.

(c) Government has seen reports on expulsion of Iraqi diplomats from a number of countries.

(d) No.

Harassment of IT professionals

5025. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that several information Technologists and IT Entrepreneurs working in the Netherlands have been recently subjected to immense harassments, including unauthorised detention in custody in that country and in England;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar hostility has been shown to Indian IT entrepreneurs by the administration in several South East Asian countries also in the recent past; and

(d) the steps, if any, taken by Government to seek assurance from the administration of at least the friendly countries in Europe to restraint themselves from treating the Indian IT personnels and entrepreneurs shabbily, in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) (a) and (b) 11 Indian IT professionals working for the Indian Firml Flex Solutions Pvt. Ltd., were detained recently by the Dutch Police on charges of visa fraud. The Chief Executive Officer of the firm, based in the United Kingdom, was also detained by the U.K. authorities following a request for his extradition from the Dutch Government. The arrests were not "unauthorised" in that they were carried out in accordance with the laws of the countries concerned. None of the detainees have reported harassment at the hands of the authorities while in detention.

(c) Cases of detention of Indian IT professionals have been reported in the recent past in Malaysia and Indonesia.

(d) The Government of India has conveyed to the Governments of the countries concerned the seriousness with which it views such incidents.